

City of New Bedford Scott W. Lang, Mayor

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## PRESS RELEASE

## **Mayor Launches Sustainability Task Force**

**New Bedford, Massachusetts-** In an effort to increase momentum and to facilitate the process of developing and implementing ways to improve energy-efficient and environmentally sound policies, Mayor Scott W. Lang has formed the "Mayor's Sustainability Task Force." Mayor Lang has charged the working group with the important task of formulating recommendations and implementation plans for better municipal energy and environmental practices. Mayor Lang will then review those recommendations and prioritize them based upon feasibility and anticipated results.

"We have assembled a team of residents with expertise on these issues who are passionate about energy efficiency, sustainability and improving the environment in our city to complete this assessment and provide us with comprehensive feedback," said Mayor Lang.

Mayor Lang has named former New Bedford Mayor John K. Bullard chair of the Task Force. "The time for debating whether climate change is happening is over. As the International Panel on Climate Change has reported we must fashion mitigation strategies to minimize carbon emissions and plan adaptations to counter the impacts that are inevitable from the momentum already in the system. Given the situation in Washington, it is likely that the most meaningful actions will be those that occur at the local level," Mayor Bullard said. He continued, "Mayor Scott Lang is providing valuable leadership by forming the Sustainability Task force and harnessing the power of our citizenry on this critical issue."

The Task Force will seek public involvement and guest presenters throughout the process, with final recommendations anticipated in the fall of this year.